

UNTOLD

STORY LEADS FROM MONTANA



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Online Lewis & Clark Press Kit Unveiled

Travel Montana has launched a Lewis & Clark online press kit at <http://lewisandclark.montanainfo.org>, timed to coincide with the launch of the official nationwide observance of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial, happening from 2003-2006.

The press kit was designed specifically to aid journalists and writers developing stories for the national Lewis & Clark Bicentennial.

Because the Lewis & Clark Expedition spent so much time in Montana—almost 25% of their entire journey—Montana's tourism promotion division felt it was important to take the lead developing a site specifically for journalists. But the site isn't solely about Montana. It's about the whole expedition, and getting the right information into journalists' hands.

Travel Montana designed the site keeping the needs of the writer in mind, so there aren't huge feature articles filled with fluff. Instead, the site offers journalists short "digests" of key information and details they can use to give their stories

more life. That includes unique and interesting nuggets of information such as:

- The two bird species named after the expedition's leaders (Lewis's Woodpecker and Clark's Nutcracker; find it at lewisandclark.montanainfo.org/names.htm)
- What Meriwether Lewis described as "the grandest sight I ever beheld" (the Great Falls of the Missouri River, detailed at lewisandclark.montanainfo.org/bigsky.htm)
- The name of the expedition's hairiest member (Seaman, Lewis's dog; read it at lewisandclark.montanainfo.org/seaman.htm). These details and others are what prompted Travel Montana to build the online site offering anecdotes and facts to help "flesh out" stories; after all, this is an informational kit aimed at journalists, not a promotional kit aimed at consumers.

Writers visiting <http://lewisandclark.montanainfo.org> can click on major sections offering details such as the expedition's background, biographies of the major characters, the expedition's route (with journal excerpts), the legacy of Lewis and Clark, bicentennial events and regularly updated



Lewis & Clark statue, Fort Benton, Montana.

news items. The site also includes print-quality photographs free for media use, story leads, reviews of Lewis and Clark books useful to journalists and links to other online Lewis and Clark resources.

For more information on Montana's online Lewis & Clark press kit, contact Travel Montana.

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Double Your Pleasure, Double Your Fun

Exuberant fly fishing enthusiasts can double their pleasure in Twin Bridges, Montana. Just on the edge of town, the Beaverhead, Big Hole and Ruby Rivers come together to form the Jefferson River, all of which provide some of the best fly fishing in North America.

And what better equipment to use for fly-fishing than a rod from the prestigious Winston Rod company, whose headquarters are located in Twin Bridges.

Winston rods had their beginnings back in 1929, when Robert Winther and Lew Stoner purchased the Western Rod Company in San Francisco and later renamed it the R.L. Winston Rod Company. Lew sold his interest to Walter "Red" Loskot in 1933, and in 1934, Lew and Red developed the first hollow-fluted bamboo rod. After several changes in ownership, the company moved

from California to Twin Bridges in 1976 so the owners could be closer to their favorite fishing holes.

According to Mike Ewing, Winston's vice president of sales and marketing, the company also relocated to help create jobs in the state of Montana and to give more credibility to the company as a fly rod industry. "In 1976 the company employed seven people, including the owners," said Ewing. Today Winston employs 60 people in the small town of Twin Bridges with a population of around 400.

Unique in its design, much of the work of building a Winston rod is done by hand, whether it is a bamboo, fiberglass or graphite



Brown Trout

rod, often taking up to six weeks to complete. Winston also designs a lighter rod with smaller grips, proven to be one of the most successful rods in the industry for women anglers.

For more information, contact R.L. Winston Rod Co. at 406-684-5674 or log onto www.winstonrods.com.

No Arch Supports for This Centenarian

Had we been a visitor to Yellowstone National Park in 1903, we would have taken the train to Gardiner, Montana and stepped out onto the groomed grounds of Arch Park and looked south to see the massive Roosevelt Arch. From here, we would have boarded a horse-drawn coach and passed through the arch on our way to explore our nation's oldest park.

Designed by architect Robert Reamer, the columnar basalt arch stands 50 feet high, with an entrance arch 30 feet high and 20 feet wide. President Theodore Roosevelt, visiting the park at the time of the arch's construction, placed the cornerstone for the arch, which then took his name. The top of the arch is inscribed with the words "For the benefit and enjoyment of the people," taken from the Organic Act of 1872, the enabling legislation for Yellowstone National Park.



After years of deterioration, Arch Park got a facelift in 2000 through the combined efforts of the community of Gardiner, Park County officials and the National Park Service. A rustic pavilion housing interpretive exhibits was added to the park along with picnic tables, new trees and footpaths. The Roosevelt Arch had been restored ten years earlier.

This year, on August 25, 2003, visitors will once again experience the hustle and bustle of previous years when the National Park Service celebrates the 100-year anniversary of the dedication of the Roosevelt Arch. According to Marsha Karle, Chief of Public Affairs for Yellowstone National Park, a patriotic celebration with all of the trimmings is being planned, including a band and an impersonator reenacting Roosevelt's speech. For more information call Marsha at 307-344-2015 or log onto www.nps.gov/yell.

"Big Bury" Unburied

Call it luck or skillful hunting, but the Bury family returned home from a 2002 summer vacation in Montana having a T-Rex named after their family. While participating in PaleoWorld's Dig-For-A-Day program, Chantell and Cortney Bury unearthed a Tyrannosaurus Rex bone, and were given the honor of naming this ancient creature. Thus was born Big Bury. PaleoWorld Research Foundation is a vision brought to life in 2001 by paleontologist Chris Morrow (who first visited Jordan back in summer 1992) and Joe Cornwell, who handles logistics for the foundation. The two were joined by a third member, local Judy Lervick, who serves as field facilities manager. Their philosophy is simple: provide to people of any age and any background (with a special emphasis on families), a unique educational hands-on opportunity to participate and explore the science of dinosaur paleontology. Signing on for a day or a week or longer, par-



ticipants dig, excavate, identify and remove their discoveries from the badlands of Garfield County, near Jordan, Montana. When the bone diggers show up in Jordan, population around 450, it's good news for the local businesses. The community, in turn, pitches in during community preparation night. Local ranchers John and Cathy McKeever have been generous with letting PaleoWorld dig on their ranch, provided the significant finds stay in Montana. PaleoWorld couldn't agree more. While Jordan's Garfield County Museum houses some unique finds, it's bursting at the seams. Through the generosity of the Bury family, plans are under way to renovate a newly acquired building in Jordan that will become the future home of the Hell Creek Dinosaur Museum and "Big Bury." PaleoWorld (www.paleo-world.org) is one of several Montana paleontology adventures families can participate in. For a complete listing, log onto www.visitmt.com.

Plowing Into Spring

A spring rite of passage in northwestern Montana is the annual plowing of the Going-to-the-Sun Road (Sun Road) in Glacier National Park. This narrow, 52-mile road traverses Glacier, crossing the Continental Divide at Logan Pass (elevation 6,646 feet). A good portion of the road is closed every fall due to inclement weather and heavy snowfall and drifting.

Every year presents unique challenges in opening the Sun Road that are impossible to predict, including snowpack, weather and road crew safety. Once cleared and the danger of avalanches has passed, the lower sections of the road are opened to bikers and hikers, who enjoy the road without cars, like a wide-open paved trail.

The steep upper sections near Logan Pass prove to be the most formidable for the crews, as this area traverses some 70 avalanche paths. Some days crews encounter new slides blocking their way home, as more slides continue to release behind them over areas already plowed. Using a combination of rotary



Glacier National Park photo

plows, front-end loaders, bulldozers and patience, crews on both the west and east sides work in earnest nibbling away at the snow, pushing toward the "Big Drift." This wind-blown snowdrift, just east of Logan Pass, can be 60-70 feet deep or more and is the final big obstacle in clearing the road.

May 16 is the earliest recorded opening during the past 30 years, while June 28, 2002 is the latest, with the average being June 7. For more general information, call 406-888-7800. For media inquiries, call the Public Affairs Office at 406-888-7906 or log onto <http://www.nps.gov/glac/home.htm>.

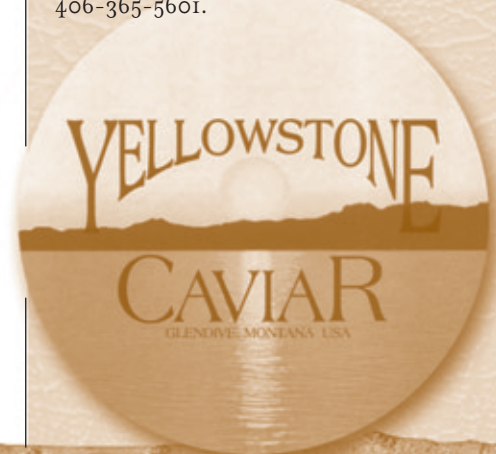
A Living Fossil

The quiet waters of the lower Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers harbor a "living fossil," Polyodon spathula, more commonly known as paddlefish. Sporting a paddle-shaped snout, a toothless, shark-like mouth, smooth scaleless skin and an average 30-year lifespan, this creature has been in existence for 300 million years. The average paddlefish weighs in around 40-50 pounds, but back in 1973, a record 142-pound-paddlefish was snagged.

Each spring during spawning season, paddlefish migrate up into the Yellowstone River at Intake and the Missouri River above Fort Peck Reservoir. So do the anglers, anxious to try their luck at snagging one of these creatures. Because paddlefish feed on microscopic organisms, conventional fishing methods won't work. It takes a hefty rod and reel, a palm-sized hook, 40-80# test line and a huge helping of patience to be successful. The hook is dropped to the river bottom and jerked along until it (hopefully) snags into the tough skin of the fish. Then the fight is on! Once snagged, the fish must be dragged to shore. The meat is delicious poached, steamed, smoked or grilled.

The paddlefish season runs from May 15 to June 30th. Anglers need a Montana fishing license and a special paddlefish tag.

This ancient creature is playing an unusual role in the economic development of the nearby community of Glendive. Folks can get their fish cleaned for free at Intake in exchange for the roe, which the Glendive Chamber of Commerce then processes into caviar. The income is used to improve fisheries and recreation in eastern Montana, as well as for awarding grants to area organizations for historical and cultural projects. For more information call the Chamber at 406-365-5601.



Montana Celebrates Lewis & Clark in "Signature Style"

From July 1 through 4, 2005, you can experience the Missouri River as members of the Corps of Discovery first saw it in 1805. Take a float tour of the Upper Missouri, stand at the edge of the Great Falls that Captain Meriwether Lewis described as "the grandest sight I ever beheld," or witness a reenactment of the arduous portage around the falls, all as part of 34 days of festivities that begin June 1, 2005.

Events will be hosted in and around the communities of Great Falls and Fort Benton, Montana. Visitors can plan to attend literature fairs, performances and

reenactments as well as a symposium featuring Indian speakers and the premiere performance of the Pioa Opera, the Blackfeet story of Scarface, on July 3, 2005.

Montana's sovereign nations will host the International Traditional Indian Games, and the Upper Portage Camp Park, a historical Lewis and Clark landmark, will be dedicated with a community picnic. The event wraps up with a spectacular fireworks display to commemorate the expedition's second Independence Day.

For more information, log onto www.explorethebigsky.com or contact Peggy Bourne, P.O. Box 5021, Great Falls, MT

59403; 406-455-8451; e-mail pbourne@ci.great-falls.mt.us

Another signature event will take place in the community of Billings. "Clark on the Yellowstone" will feature reenactments and Native American games from July 22 through 25, 2006 (see below story).

For more information, log onto www.clarkontheyellowstone.org or contact Jeffrey Dietz, 2109 11th Street West, Billings, MT 59102; e-mail dietzjjs@aol.com.

"Explore the Big Sky" Events

Pompeys Pillar Interpretive Center

Plans are under way for a historical interpretive center on the Yellowstone River near Pompeys Pillar, the site where Captain William Clark carved his name and the date—July 25, 1806—into the soft limestone butte. The historic site is located about 30 miles east of Billings on Interstate 94.

The center will highlight the history of Pompeys Pillar, which Clark named after Sacagawea's infant son (affectionately known to the party as "Pompey").

The new interpretive center will include dozens of educational opportunities that focus on the Corps of Discovery and the Native Americans who called the area home before Lewis and Clark arrived. It also will be the site of the national Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature Event "Clark on the Yellowstone", which will be held in July 2006 (see above story).

While the interpretive center is not yet complete, Pompeys Pillar is home to an annual festival called Clark Days, which is held at the end of July to celebrate Clark's exploration of the Yellowstone River.

Travelers' Rest Campground Project

Visitors following in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark will want to stop at Travelers' Rest, where the Corps of Discovery camped in their trek through the

Bitterroot Mountains and over the Continental Divide. Lewis and Clark camped at Travelers' Rest from September 9 through 11, 1805 and again June 30 through July 3, 1806 on their return trip.

Adjacent to the small town of Lolo (seven miles west of Missoula), Travelers' Rest has been a site of intense interest for archeologists, who confirmed that the area was one of 286 Montana campsites used by the Corps of Discovery. But before they arrived, the location was a campsite frequently used by Indians. Visitors can take a walking tour of the 35-acre site and experience the area much in the same way members of the Corps did almost 200 years ago.

Improvements are under way to enlarge and enhance the Travelers' Rest Historical Landmark and provide year-round educational opportunities in the Travelers' Rest Visitor's Center.

The project is expected to be complete early in 2003 with the first anniversary event scheduled for June 29 through July 3, 2003. The event will include historical reenactments and other educational opportunities.

Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center

This stunning facility, built into cliffs overlooking the Missouri River in Great Falls, features exhibits detailing the Corps of Discovery's entire journey. The show-

case exhibit is a two-story diorama depicting the portage around the Great Falls of the Missouri. Exhibits especially focus on the Native American viewpoint of the expedition, detailing how the travelers were dependent on various tribes through the whole journey.

In 2005, the Interpretive Center will be the epicenter for a national Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature Event titled "Explore the Big Sky" (see above story).

FROM MONTANA

The diversity of events, places and people in Montana is almost as wide as the state itself. We hope to give you a taste of that diversity with this quarterly newsletter. In addition, the following services are offered to editors, writers and producers:

Visual Materials

Color slides, 8"x10" B/W photos and stock video footage are available for editorial use.

Writer/Photographer Referrals

We can put you in contact with many of Montana's most talented and experienced freelance writers and photographers.

Editorial Copy/Calendar of Events

We can provide background information or editorial copy for many subjects. We also maintain a calendar of events for the entire state.

Individual Attention

If you need the latest vacation guide and road map of Montana, a liaison with other government agencies or detailed information to fit a specific story angle, we're here to assist you.

Contact Donnie Sexton, Publicity/Photography